



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JUL 23 2012

Mr. Gary Kassof
United States Coast Guard
First Coast Guard District
One South Street
Battery Park Building
New York, NY 10004-1466

Dear Mr. Kassof:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Coast Guard's Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) to permit the construction of a new 475-foot long pedestrian bridge and approaches over the New York State Canal/Mohawk River in the City of Amsterdam, Montgomery County, New York. The bridge will be approximately 30 feet wide and contain park-like features including tree and flower planters. The southern approach will consist of rebuilding an existing dead end street, with a small parking lot, landscape features and retaining walls to accommodate new pedestrian amenities such as walkways and viewing areas. The northern approach will consist of constructing a new 12-foot wide trail to connect the northern bridge abutment with Riverlink Park, located approximately 500 feet to the east. The purpose of the proposed pedestrian bridge is to reconnect the Southside neighborhoods to the City's downtown and Northside neighborhoods; reconnect the Southside neighborhoods to the waterfront recreational areas on the north side of the Mohawk River; improve the safety and efficiency of pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between the Southside neighborhoods and the City's neighborhoods north of the Mohawk River and downtown; connect Riverlink Park and City of Amsterdam's trail systems to the NYS Canalway Trail; facilitate tourism; and provide additional access for emergency vehicles to the Riverlink Park.

With the inclusion of information and analyses requested in EPA's January 20, 2011 comment letter on the Draft Environmental Assessment, EPA concurs that this project will have no significant effect on the environment. EPA would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Richard Karris of the New York State Thruway Authority for his efforts to ensure our comments were incorporated into the FEA.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FEA. If you have any questions, please call Lingard Knutson of my staff at (212) 637-3747.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grace Musumeci", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Grace Musumeci, Chief
Environmental Review Section

cc: Richard Karris, Jr. P.E.
New York State Thruway Authority